

PUBLIC ACCESS ROOM

A division of the Legislative Reference Bureau

N E W S L E T T E R

Hawaii State Capitol ♦ 415 South Beretania Street ♦ Room 401 ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 587-0478 ♦ Fax: (808) 587-0793 ♦ URL: www.hawaii.gov/lrb/par**Legislative
Timetable****January**

18th Opening Day.
20th Non-Administrative Bill
Package Cutoff.
23rd State-of-the-State Address &
Administrative Bill Package Cutoff.
25th Last day for introduction of
bills.
31st Grants/Subsidies Cutoff.

February

17th First Lateral.
20th Holiday - Presidents' Day.
23rd - March 1st Mandatory 5-Day
Recess.

March

3rd First Decking - last day to file
non-budget bills.
9th First Crossover.
15th Last day to introduce
substantive resolutions.
21st Budget Decking.
23rd Budget Crossover.
24th Second Lateral.
27th Holiday - Kuhio Day.

April

7th Second Decking - last day to
file bills in non-originating body.
13th Second Crossover - last day to
disagree/First Crossover for
Concurrent Resolutions.
14th Holiday - Good Friday
21st Deadline for final form of
constitutional amendments.
24th Second Crossover for
Concurrent Resolutions.
27th Last day to file non-fiscal bills
to deck for Final Reading.
28th Last day to file fiscal bills to
deck for Final Reading.

May

4th Adjournment Sine Die.

June

23rd Last day for Governor to veto
bills

July

10th Last day for Governor to sign
bills

CONTACT US:

Public Access Room

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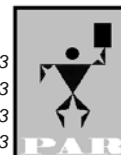
E-mail: par@capitol.hawaii.gov**Neighbor Islands (Toll Free):** Telephone Fax

Hawai'i:....974-4000, then ext. 70478 70793

Maui:.....984-2400, then ext. 70478 70793

Kaua'i:....274-3141, then ext. 70478 70793

Moloka'i/Lana'i: 800-468-4644, then ext. 70478 70793

**Nuestra Casa es Su Casa**

Aloha, and welcome to the 2nd session of the 23rd legislature. We look forward to the opportunity to help you participate in the legislative process as you do your part to keep our representative democracy viable and strong. We will be open **8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday** during the session, and **8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays**.

You can call us at 587-0478 on O`ahu. You can also call us toll-free from the Neighbor Islands by using the numbers listed above for your island and extension 7-0478. Or you can email your inquiries to par@capitol.hawaii.gov. Keep in mind that during busy times like session, **you'll often get a faster answer by phoning than you will by using email**. And of course, we're going to be delighted to see you in person, too.

Best wishes for a wonderful session!

**COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS: Who's The
Assigning Guru?**

It's a new year and a new session! You're excited as you hurry off to your first public hearing (or second or third or ...) about an issue that deeply concerns you and your community. Okay, your boss assigned you to cover the hearing. You're still excited, right? You walk into the hearing room and see lawmakers sitting around a large table at the front of the room with stacks of documents surrounding them. And the first thing that comes to your mind is, how were the members assigned to the committee? (Oh, that question never dawned on you? Well it has now...)

The committee that you are looking at is either a Senate or House committee, or both (if it's a joint hearing), and the committee will probably be a Standing Committee. This committee was established to review and make diligent inquiry into the facts and circumstances of the matter before them, and then report their findings to the Senate or House.

Leadership of both the Majority and the Minority party has a part in who gets assigned to which committees. In the Senate, the President appoints the Majority party members, including the Chair and Vice-Chair of the committee, subject to action by the Senate. [Senate Rules 3 (7) and 13 (1).] The first two persons named on the committee are the Chair and Vice-Chair. [Senate Rule 14 (1)]. The leadership of the Minority party nominates its members to the committee. [Senate Rule 13 (1)] Members of both parties are represented on the committee on a proportional basis. [Senate Rule 13 (1).]

In the House, committee members, including the Chair and Vice-Chair, are designated by resolution, and the composition of the committee is on a proportional basis. Members of the Majority party designate the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Majority party members, and members of the Minority party designate the Minority party members. [House Rule 11.2 (1).]

PACKAGES and COMPANIONS



Sometimes, a **legislative package** is presented as the long-awaited road map to a better future — but even though you may think of a particular “package” as a “gift”, the term here refers to a **collection of measures** introduced and advocated for by an office, caucus or interest group. It’s the public statement of an organization’s agenda for the session. Put simply, the organization endorses each bill and resolution included in their package.

Numerous non-profit corporations, businesses and civic organizations may have legislative packages. To find them, you can consult their legislative affairs office, or look at their websites.

But the Hawaii State Legislature’s website (www.capitol.hawaii.gov) makes it **easy** for you to **view, and track, the legislative packages of numerous government offices and caucuses**. Just go to “Bill Status and Docs,” and then to the “Select a Package” box (2nd down on the right). A pull-down menu lists all of the packages available for viewing. For example, you may choose the packages presented by the House and Senate majority and minority caucuses, the Governor, Campaign Spending Commission, Women’s Legislative Caucus, the various counties, and so on.

Once you’ve selected a package, you can view which measures are included and their current referrals and status. Then, if you’d like to assist, or oppose, the organization’s efforts, you know which measures to follow. The list will also show you whether any of the measures have **companions**.

Having a companion doesn’t necessarily mean a bill is well liked, though it does mean the bill started out with a twin in the opposite chamber. **Companions are bills that are identical in wording when introduced in opposite chambers (and given different bill numbers), and which are identified and tagged as identical by the clerks’ offices when introduced.** Introducing the same measure in both chambers is thought to increase the possibility of its passage – if the measure stalls in one chamber, it may still move forward in the other. **It’s important to keep in mind that if you’re tracking a bill’s progress, you will want to track its companion’s progress, too.** If a bill has a companion, it will be noted in the header of the **bill status** sheet – the notation stays there *even if the bills are no longer the same*.

A word of caution – while all companions are identical at session start, **not all identical bills at session start are companions**. Sometimes, identically worded bills will be introduced in the same or opposite chambers and there is no notation of this – when introduced, the bills were not identified and tagged as identical. In some cases, the introducers may not be aware of a ‘twin’ being introduced elsewhere. **That’s why it’s a good idea to take the time early in session to perform a good search through all the measures introduced – to make sure you know what’s in the packages, what companions are out there, and what other measures may be waiting in the wings.**

PAR's tip on...Proofreading

Sometimes we can get so close to our work that we can’t really see it clearly. We try so hard. This is true in so many contexts – pursuing careers, climbing mountains, writing testimony...It’s frustrating.

Fortunately (at least when writing testimony), help is at hand. Use the tools available to you – a dictionary, thesaurus, your word-processing software’s grammar and spelling features, your friends – use them all.

Take a break in between writing and proofreading – clear your head.

Be aware of the errors you make consistently, and look out for them in particular. If you type *informatoin* all the time instead of *information*, use Word’s ‘tools’ feature to access the auto-correct options, and enter the word the way you commonly mis-spell it. Auto-correct will take it from there.

Ask a friend to read what you’ve written. This is often the most effective way to catch any errors you missed. Someone else’s eyes can view your work more clearly, and save you from possible embarrassment.

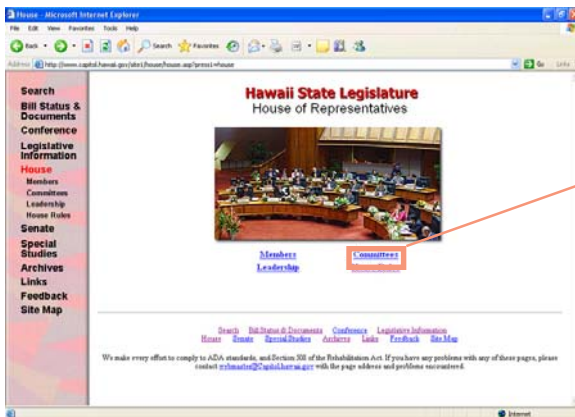
There you have it. These simple suggestions can help you be a much more effective advocate for your cause, if you use them well.

Who sits on that committee?

You have an issue; you have an idea of what committees your issue will be assigned to; you want to discuss your issue with legislative members in those committees. But you have no any idea who sits on those committees. No problem!

Here's another lesson on how to obtain information pertaining to the Hawaii State Legislature via their website:

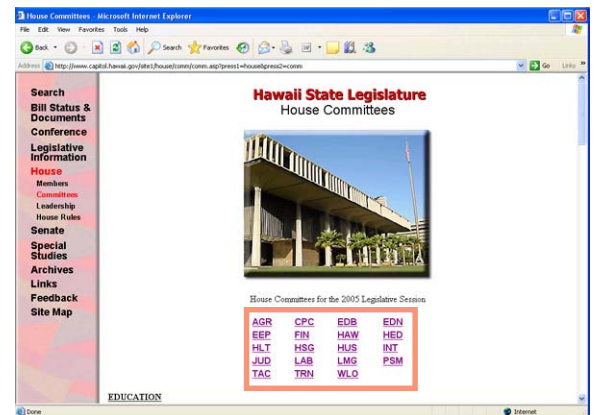
- 1) Log on to the website at www.capitol.hawaii.gov.
- 2) Select either House or Senate, depending on which committee you are looking up.



- 3) Once you have selected a chamber (for this example we selected the House link), click on the 'Committees' link.



- 4) Listed will be the acronyms for all the committees assigned in that chamber. If you are unsure of what the acronyms stand for, below is a handy chart.
- 5) Click on the link to the committee you're looking for. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the committee will be pictured with the other members listed. Click on the legislator's name to get their contact info.



House

Committee Name

Agriculture
Consumer Protection & Commerce
Economic Development & Business Concerns
Education
Energy and Environmental Protection
Finance
Hawaiian Affairs
Higher Education
Health
Housing
Human Services
International Affairs
Judiciary
Labor & Public Employment
Legislative Management
Public Safety and Military Affairs
Tourism and Culture
Transportation
Water, Land Use and Ocean Resources

Acronym

AGR
CPC
EDB
EDN
EEP
FIN
HAW
HED
HLT
HSG
HUS
INT
JUD
LAB
LMG
PSM
TAC
TRN
WLO

Senate

Committee Name

Business and Economic Development
Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Housing
Education and Military Affairs
Energy, Environment, and International Affairs
Health
Higher Education
Human Services
Intergovernmental Affairs
Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Labor
Media, Arts, Science, and Technology
Tourism
Transportation and Government Operations
Water, Land, and Agriculture
Ways and Means

Acronym

BED
CPH
EDM
EIA
HTH
HRE
HMS
IGA
JHW
LBR
MAT
TSM
TGO
WLA
WAM

Meet the PAR Staff for 2006



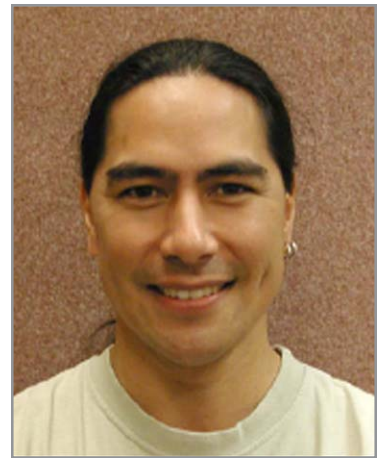
Nilu Smith



Larry Ka'aloehukai
Kamakawiwo'ole



Virginia Beck



Robbie Watland

Nope, you don't have to clear your eyes. The Public Access Room has been blessed by the return of 2 of last year's session staff: **Virginia Beck** and **Larry Kamakawiwo'ole**. These two did not hesitate to devote their interim to some serious leisure activities. Virginia did some traveling to San Diego and to Puerto Vallarta, as well as spending quality time on Lanikai beach. Larry occupied his time, well, being retired. At the end of last session, Larry officially became a member of a "club" we all look forward to being a part of some day, "the wake-up when I want to and do what I want to when I want" club. PAR's full-time Assistant Coordinator, **Robbie Watland**, did some lively stepping away from the office during the interim. His band Slug traveled to New Jersey for a few shows, then rushed back to play at the *Lost: First Season* DVD release party in August.

New to the PAR is **Nilu Smith**, a recent political science graduate from HPU. Apart from working full-time in the PAR, Nilu also works part-time at Tiki's Bar & Grill. She looks forward to learning more about Hawaii's state legislature and assisting the patrons of the PAR. Welcome aboard, Nilu!

PAR WORKSHOPS

The Public Access Room of the Hawaii State Legislature hosts a series of workshops for the public on a number of topics that pertain to the legislature. Listed below are the workshops that are available. If you are interested in attending any of the scheduled workshops, please contact the Public Access Room at 587-0478. The workshops will be held in the Public Access Room (room 401 in the State Capitol) and seating is limited so sign up soon.

Legislative Process – Learn about the Legislative Timetable, Deadlines, Readings, Conference Procedures, and internal rules of the House and Senate.

Useful Internet Sites – Learn about the research tools available online including the legislature's website and the State government website.

Reading and Understanding Legislative Documents – Learn how to read and understand legislative documents including Orders of the Day, Hearing Notices, Bills and Resolutions, Referral Sheets, Journals and Governor's Messages.

Workshop Schedule

Jan 19 Th	Process	1:30 pm
Jan 24 Tu	Internet	1:00 pm
Jan 25 Wed	Documents	5:00 pm
Jan 26 Th	Internet	1:00 pm
Jan 31 Tu	Process	1:00 pm
Feb 2 Th	Internet	5:00 pm
Feb 7 Tu	Documents	1:00 pm
Feb 9 Th	Process	5:00 pm
Feb 14 Tu	Documents	1:00 pm
Feb 16 Th	Process	5:00 pm
Feb 21 Tu	Internet	1:00 pm
Feb 23 Th	Documents	5:00 pm
Feb 28 Tu	Internet	1:00 pm

This just in from our quotes department... *"Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there."* Will Rogers